

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 EB-08 OMB-01 HA-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2077
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T MOSCOW 11509

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, PORG, UR, CH
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY -- PUBLIC STATEMENT

REF: STATE 130353

1. WE SUGGEST ONE SMALL CHANGE IN DRAFT STATEMENT PARA
SIX, SECTION ON DEFENSE: ADDING "POTENTIALLY" BEFORE
"MAJOR" AND "LONG-TERM" BEFORE "SECURITY", LAST SENTENCE,
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PARA SIX, SO AS TO READ "IN ASIA IT WILL CONTINUE TO
VIEW CHINA AS A POTENTIALLY MAJOR LONG-TERM SECURITY
THREAT."

2. RATIONALE: SOVIET PUBLIC FULMINATIONS AND PERIODIC
FORMAL DEMARCHES ON PRC MILITARY THREAT TO SOVIET
UNION (OFTEN IN CONTEXT OF ARMS SALES TO CHINA QUESTION)

CONFLICT WITH MORE CANDID STATEMENTS BY SOVIETS IN
PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. IN LATTER DISCUSSIONS
SOVIETS CLEARLY RECOGNIZE THAT THE FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC

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PROBLEMS IN CHINA, DIFFICULTIES OF POLITICAL STABIL-
TIES, AND THE RELATIVE MILITARY STRENGTHS OF THE
SOVIET UNION AND CHINA DO NOT MAKE THE PRC A MAJOR
MILITARY THREAT TO THE SOVIET UNION AS THIS TIME.
MOST RECENTLY, ON MAY 18, CHIEF, ASIAN SECTION, USA
INSTITUTE, VLADIMIR LUKIN, IN ARGUING THE SOVIET
CASE AGAINST U.S.-PRC POLITICAL COOPERATION, NOTED
THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT AFRAID OF A MILITARY
THREAT FROM CHINA GIVEN THE SUPERIOR SOVIET MILITARY
PREPONDERANCE. DURING APRIL 18 CONVERSATION WITH
VISITING FCO OFFICIAL REPORTED MOSCOW 8357, MFA'S
CHIEF FAR EASTERN DEPT. SAID THAT THE USSR DOES NOT
EXAGGERATE THE CHINESE THREAT NOR IS IT AFRAID OF
IT IN THE SLIGHTEST.

3. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THE SOVIET POLICY PLANNERS
DO NOT AT THIS TIME AND PROBABLY IN THE SHORT-TERM
FUTURE WILL NOT VIEW CHINA AS A MAJOR SECURITY
THREAT, DESPITE CHINA'S LARGE DEMOGRAPHIC BASE
AND GROWING NUCLEAR DETERRENT. THIS SITUATION COULD
(AND PROBABLY WILL) CHANGE IF, OVER THE LONGER RUN,
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THE CHINESE SHOULD SUCCEED IN THEIR ECONOMIC-
MILITARY-SCIENTIFIC MODERNIZATION PLANS WITH OR
WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP. AT SAME TIME, WE EXPECT THAT
THE SOVIETS WILL CONTINUE TO MAGNIFY EXTENT OF
CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE CHINESE THREAT TO THE USSR.
THIS EFFORT IS PARTLY BASED ON SOVIET ATTEMPTS
TO OBTAIN BENEFITS IN EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS,
PARTLY ON MOSCOW'S PARANOIC OBSESSION OVER THE
POSSIBILITY OF A U.S./NATO/JAPANESE LINKUP WITH
PEKING, ESPECIALLY THE KIND OF LINKUP WHICH WOULD
ACCELERATE THE GROWTH OF CHINA'S MILITARY MIGHT.
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